

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission**  
**Community Focus Group: Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation**  
**Held at the Urban Promise Academy**  
**Oakland, California**  
**June 2, 2008**

**Question 1**

1. Which of the following strategies should be a higher priority?	
A. Spending transportation funds to maintain the existing system of roads and the existing bus, rail and ferry services in the region	2
B. Spending transportation funds to build new roads and add more bus, rail and ferry services in the region	14

**Comments:**

We need more buses so it's not as long of a wait and people can get to work and school on time

New buses and new routes – sometimes they drop you off two miles away from where you need to be – we need more stops and more service

Agree because most of the time people that use buses are delayed (especially during the evening) – more buses is the solution (especially during the evening hours – we also need more exits from the freeway (there is too long of a wait to get off of the freeway) He also mentioned Bus 40 being changed from going from downtown Oakland to 73<sup>rd</sup> avenue – people expected it to go faster, but there is no improvement. Also need to improve the information system – mentioned NextBus and said it's not accurate (referring to AC information)

Also agree because more roads and different routes would make it less crowded (she has a small baby and mentioned moms with small children in strollers and how the bus drivers treat them because the strollers take extra space – more buses would help this)

Also mentioned being told to close her stroller – the drivers made her get out of the bus

Need more security on the buses

Need to at least take care of the system we have instead of spending money on other things

**Question 2**

2. How much of the \$30 billion dollar budget should be spent on maintaining local streets and roads, state highways, and public transit systems?	
A. Up to 25% (\$7.5 billion)	4

B. Up to 50% (\$15 billion)	3
C. Up to 75% (\$22.5 billion)	3
D. 100% (\$30 billion)	2

**Comments:**

Keeping our roads up is important, but she thinks money could be spent on other things more productive – and community building systems

Important to take care of the roads, but there are more important things to spend money on – there are lots of needs

We need more buses and need to improve the system

Important for us to be able to get around to get to places and safer to commute

Important to be spent on maintenance, especially roads, highways – it's just a little bit for all the needs we have

If it were actually allocated for that it should be used on maintenance and good roads – we would spend less gas if the roads were smoother

(One comment from a gentleman: This is a difficult question; is there a deficit or surplus? We don't know how much there is and how much is needed.)

**Question 3**

3. If you didn't spend all \$30 billion dollars on maintenance projects, where would you spend the rest of the funds?
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**Comments:**

Some could go for transportation for people to stay late after school – to help with school programs (also need to improve safety if people are traveling after hours – especially safety for students)

More security – but not cops – on the buses

Also the drivers need to be more helpful (instead of kicking moms off the bus) – training for them to be more aware – they're so focused on driving and not worried about what's going on in the back of the bus – people will get bullied or robbed and the bus driver just keeps driving

Would spend it on buses for adults that are students without a car – school buses also (when kids go on a field trip the buses are in bad shape)

Wants new buses and to improve the system

She agrees – her husband is delayed sometimes going to work because BART is late – need more and better service

Buses are really important, but also important to have different routes – difficult to get her daughters to Skyline because there weren't enough routes – also thinks it's important – couldn't go to evening meetings at school because there was no bus service to the school – also need more light and security at night

#### **Question 4**

4. Which of the following projects should be a higher investment priority for the region's transportation system?	
A. Spending transportation funds on the highway system to relieve traffic congestion, including ramp metering, high-occupancy toll lanes, etc.	1
B. Spending transportation funds on public transit options, including rail and buses to provide alternatives to driving	14
C. Spending transportation funds on walking paths and bicycle lanes to provide alternatives to driving	0

#### **Comments:**

B, best option because the price of gas is so high – also because of pollution (several people agreed with this)

Also if people take transit it will help with A above

Need more options for transit to make sure you can get to your destination on time (so you're not late for school or work)

#### **Question 5**

5. What's the one improvement that could be made to public transportation that would increase ridership?
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#### **Comments:**

Increase number of buses and number of routes – there are some places you can only get to by car – also need to expand time for transfers (and possibly standardize)

Everything is more expensive in SF, but the transportation system is cheaper (also mentioned the transfers being cheaper there as well as longer times to use the transfer – and wants a standardized fare and transfer fare/times) (universal fare structure comment again)

Would also like transfers to be used on several different transit systems

Would also like to see you be able to use the transfer more than once per hour (you can only use the transfer once per hour now)

Families where there are two or three kids – they have to pay for their kids, too – needs to be some special discount for larger families – something to help them not to have all that money going into transportation for these families

Security is also important – increasing security

### **Question 6**

6. Which of the following should be a higher priority?	
A. Providing more transportation funds to communities that are planning to build more housing along BART and other public transit lines	2
B. Providing transportation funds evenly to communities regardless of where they are planning to build homes	13

Comments:

A, it would be cheaper and better for people to get to transit and leave their car home – but mostly would be cheaper

B, money should be allocated to all the communities, not just to certain ones; the way it is in Oakland is fine; all the money will go, for example, for San Ramon where there is still space to build

Everything should be equal, whether you live outside or in the city – should be able to get to places regardless of where you live

If there's no space around the BART station to build, they have to create new routes – she thinks that more routes are the solution – everyone wants to get BART to work faster and better

Might mess up the community to build within a community – mentioned Fruitvale Village – they were expecting the homes to be the market price at the moment – the homes that went in were more expensive – doesn't fit the needs of the community to build TODs

### **Question 7**

7. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: <i>"There should be a subsidy for low-income riders."</i>	
A. Strongly Agree	14
B. Agree	1
C. Neutral	1
D. Disagree	0
E. Strongly Disagree	0

Comments:

Strongly agree; sometimes you have a car, but it breaks and then you have to use public transportation

When I was growing up my parents didn't have much money for things, even food – so having extra money for transportation would help with those tough choices within a limited budget

Really important for parents and low-income people – need to spend money on rent, food and transportation – sometimes it's hard to decide whether to go to work or to eat

Also families with three or four kids – sometimes they need to have several jobs – with different jobs sometimes families have to take different routes – with small kids, it's tough to make it all work out

### **Question 8**

8. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: <i>"I favor basing all transit fare subsidies on income rather than age or disability."</i>	
A. Strongly Agree	9
B. Agree	5
C. Neutral	1
D. Disagree	1
E. Strongly Disagree	0

### **Comments:**

Agrees and said others agree with this too

Agrees because it would be a help for everyone, students and everyone – would be better for her son to pay less – she agrees with the discount

How would you prove the income – based on taxes? There are a lot of people who don't or cannot file taxes. Poor people with no tax papers would have to pay regular price. Would rather see a third option where you combine both low-income and youth/seniors – would like to see low-income added to the current system

### **Question 9**

9. Which of the following should be a higher priority?	
A. Reducing tailpipe emissions and encouraging alternatives to driving, such as public transit, bicycling, walking, etc.	11

B. Reducing traffic congestion and improving traffic flow to make it easier to drive around the Bay Area	4
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**Comments:**

We always are hearing things about the environment – important to improve the transportation system and make it stronger – so many kids right now with asthma – need to increase or improve the system

B, making new roads or new exits or entrances to freeway would be better – people would be getting to jobs faster and not waiting so long on the roads – it would decrease the pollution and emissions

It's a good idea to reduce the traffic – same reasons: alleviate pollution and get people to jobs faster

**Question 10**

10. Which programs do you think are most effective to reduce the amount of emissions? (Select as many as you think will reduce emissions.)	
A. Subsidize purchase of newer/cleaner vehicles	3
B. Provide more/cheaper public transit	15
C. Develop awareness campaign to encourage people to reduce fossil fuel use	9
D. Build more bike paths and sidewalks	3
E. Funding incentives to cities to allow more development near transit	3
F. Support local traffic signal timing coordination	5

**Comments:**

B, provide more public transportation so there aren't as many cars

A B and C, would be good to have new cars – maybe those that use biodiesel or alternative fuels (green cars); also provide cheaper and more transportation; also create a campaign to make people more conscious of the problem

D, for bikes and for walking (although maybe we won't be walking around Oakland...)

A B C & D – should first improve public transportation; then have some kind of law against people who consume so much gas (maybe leave vehicles at home at least one day of the month and take public transportation)

F, coordinate the lights – time given to lights to change is too short, there are a lot of accidents – this is a safety issue as well as an emissions issue

**Question 11**

11. How much of the \$30 billion dollar budget should be spent on maintaining local streets and roads, state highways, and public transit systems?
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A. Up to 25% (\$7.5 billion)	5
B. Up to 50% (\$15 billion)	4
C. Up to 75% (\$22.5 billion)	3
D. 100% (\$30 billion)	4

**Comment:**

Still think it's more important to have more buses and more routes to take people to jobs and to school – it's important to give maintenance to roads, but more buses and routes is even more important

**Question 12**

12. Thinking ahead to the year 2035, if you had \$30 billion, how much would you spend on each of the following projects to prepare for our regional transportation needs? To make it simpler, let's change the \$30 billion to \$30. Out of the \$30, please fill in the dollar amount you would spend for each area.	
A. Maintenance of existing roads and systems	\$131
B. Relief of traffic congestion	\$68
C. Provide transportation funds to cities that develop housing near transit	\$74
D. Provide access to public transit systems for all Bay Area residents	\$152
E. Reducing automobile emissions	\$39

**Comment:**

Maintenance is the most important issue

**Question 13**

13. Now that we've done the budget, would you favor pursuing new revenues to increase the funding?	
A. Yes	15
B. No	1

**Question 14**

14. Which of the following new revenue sources would you support? (Multiple answers are okay.)	
A. Regional gas fee	0
B. Higher bridge toll	0
C. Road tolls	0
D. Vehicle registration fees	0
E. County transportation sales taxes	0

F. Other new revenues	7
G. No new fees or increases	11

**Comments:**

Cigarette tax and beer (better for them, too – if price is higher, perhaps people won't buy/consume so much)

Tax the casinos

Donations

Tax the rich

Tax the corporations

Tax the gas stations